

What is claimed is:

1. An appliance fire extinguisher comprising:
a container containing a pressurized fire retardant;
a delivery tube connected to the container and in fluid communication with the pressurized fire retardant; and
a fusible tip disposed at a distal end of the delivery tube that seals the delivery tube, wherein the distal end is disposable within the appliance and wherein the fusible tip is adapted to release the fire retardant from the container into the appliance upon melting of the fusible tip when the fusible tip is exposed to a temperature that exceeds its melting temperature.
2. The appliance fire extinguisher of claim 1, and further comprising a pressure-actuated switch connected to the container and in fluid communication with the pressurized fire retardant, wherein the pressure-actuated switch is connectable to a power supply circuit of the appliance for shutting off power to the appliance when a pressure in the container drops below a predetermined value as a result of the fire retardant being released from the container.
3. The appliance fire extinguisher of claim 2, wherein the pressure-actuated switch is held closed by a pressure in the container and is adapted to open when the pressure in the container drops below a predetermined value as a result of the fire retardant being released from the container.
4. The appliance fire extinguisher of claim 1, and further comprising a pressure indicator connected to the container and in fluid communication with the pressurized fire retardant.

5. The appliance fire extinguisher of claim 1, wherein the fire retardant is a powder.
6. The appliance fire extinguisher of claim 1, further comprising an alarm adapted to generate an alarm when a pressure in the container drops below a predetermined value as a result of the fire retardant being released from the container.
7. The appliance fire extinguisher of claim 1, wherein the container is adapted to be recharged.
8. The appliance fire extinguisher of claim 1, wherein the fusible tip is solder.
9. The appliance fire extinguisher of claim 1, wherein the distal end is disposable within an air intake path of the appliance.
10. The appliance fire extinguisher of claim 1, wherein the appliance is selected from the group consisting of clothes dryers, stove hoods, furnaces, microwave ovens, gas-powered electrical generators, and chimneys.
11. An appliance fire extinguisher comprising:
 - a container containing a pressurized fire retardant, wherein the fire retardant is a powder and the container is mountable on the appliance;
 - a delivery tube connected to the container and in fluid communication with the pressurized fire retardant;
 - a solder tip disposed at a distal end of the delivery tube that seals the delivery tube, wherein the distal end is disposable within the appliance and wherein the solder tip is adapted to release the fire retardant from the container into the

appliance upon melting of the solder tip when the solder tip is exposed to a temperature that exceeds its melting temperature;

a pressure-actuated switch connected to the container and in fluid communication with the pressurized fire retardant, wherein the pressure-actuated switch is connectable to a power supply circuit of the appliance for shutting off power to the appliance when a pressure in the container drops below a predetermined value as a result of the fire retardant being released from the container; and

a pressure indicator connected to the container and in fluid communication with the pressurized fire retardant.

12. The appliance fire extinguisher of claim 11, wherein the distal end is disposable within an air intake path of the appliance.
13. A fire extinguisher system comprising:
 - a container containing a pressurized fire retardant;
 - a plurality of delivery tubes connected to the container and in fluid communication with the pressurized fire retardant; and
 - a fusible tip disposed at a distal end of each of the delivery tubes that seals the respective delivery tubes, wherein each of the distal ends is respectively disposable in a different appliance and wherein each fusible tip is adapted to release the fire retardant from the container through its respective delivery tube into its respective appliance upon melting of that fusible tip when that fusible tip is exposed to a temperature that exceeds its melting temperature.
14. The appliance fire extinguisher of claim 13, and further comprising a pressure-actuated alarm connected to the container and in fluid communication with the

pressurized fire retardant, the alarm adapted to generate an alarm when a pressure in the container drops below a predetermined value as a result of the fire retardant being released from the container.

15. The fire extinguisher system of claim 13, wherein at least one of the fusible tips has a melting temperature that is different from the melting temperatures of the other fusible tips.
16. An appliance fire extinguisher system comprising:
 - a container containing a pressurized fire retardant, the container mountable on the appliance;
 - a plurality of delivery tubes connected to the container and in fluid communication with the pressurized fire retardant;
 - a fusible tip disposed at a distal end of each of the delivery tubes that seals the respective delivery tubes, wherein each of the distal ends is respectively disposable at a different location within the appliance and wherein each fusible tip is adapted to release the fire retardant from the container through its respective delivery tube into its respective location upon melting of that fusible tip when that fusible the tip is exposed to a temperature that exceeds its melting temperature; and
 - a pressure-actuated switch connected to the container and in fluid communication with the pressurized fire retardant, wherein the pressure-actuated switch is connectable to a power supply circuit of the appliance for shutting off power to the appliance when a pressure in the container drops below a predetermined value as a result of the fire retardant being released from the container through one or more of the delivery tubes.

17. The appliance fire extinguisher system of claim 16, and further comprising a pressure-actuated alarm connected to the container and in fluid communication with the pressurized fire retardant, the alarm adapted to generate an alarm when the pressure in the container drops below a predetermined value as a result of the fire retardant being released from the container.
18. The appliance fire extinguisher system of claim 16, wherein at least one of the fusible tips has a melting temperature that is different from the melting temperatures of the other fusible tips.
19. An appliance comprising:
 - a fire extinguisher, comprising:
 - a container containing a pressurized fire retardant;
 - a delivery tube connected to the container and in fluid communication with the pressurized fire retardant;
 - a fusible tip disposed at a distal end of the delivery tube that seals the delivery tube, the fusible tip disposed at a location within the appliance, wherein the fusible tip is adapted to release the fire retardant from the container into the appliance upon melting of the fusible tip when the temperature at the location within the appliance exceeds the melting temperature of the fusible tip; and
 - a pressure-actuated switch connected to the container and in fluid communication with the pressurized fire retardant, wherein the pressure-actuated switch is connected to a power supply circuit of the appliance for shutting off power to the appliance when a pressure in the container drops below a predetermined value as a result of the fire retardant being released from the container.

20. The appliance of claim 19, wherein the location within the appliance corresponds to an air intake path of the appliance.
21. The appliance of claim 19, wherein the pressure-actuated switch is mounted on a control panel of the appliance.
22. An appliance comprising:
an appliance body; and
a fire extinguisher system, comprising:
a container containing a pressurized fire retardant mounted on the appliance body;
a plurality of delivery tubes connected to the container and in fluid communication with the pressurized fire retardant;
a fusible tip disposed at a distal end of each of the delivery tubes that seals the respective delivery tubes, each of the distal ends respectively disposed at a different location within the appliance, wherein each fusible tip is adapted to release the fire retardant from the container through its respective delivery tube upon melting of that fusible tip when the temperature at its respective location within the appliance exceeds the melting temperature of that fusible tip; and
a pressure-actuated switch connected to the container and in fluid communication with the pressurized fire retardant, wherein the pressure-actuated switch is connected to a power supply circuit of the appliance for shutting off power to the appliance when a pressure in the container drops below a predetermined value as a

result of the fire retardant being released from the container through one or more of the delivery tubes.

23. The appliance of claim 22, and further comprising a pressure-actuated alarm connected to the container and in fluid communication with the pressurized fire retardant, the alarm adapted to generate an alarm when the pressure in the container drops below a predetermined value as a result of the fire retardant being released from the container.
24. The appliance of claim 23, wherein the pressure-actuated switch is mounted on a control panel of the appliance.
25. The appliance of claim 22, wherein the pressure-actuated switch is mounted on a control panel of the appliance.
26. A system comprising:
 - a plurality of appliances; and
 - a fire extinguisher system, comprising:
 - a container containing a pressurized fire retardant;
 - a plurality of delivery tubes connected to the container and in fluid communication with the pressurized fire retardant;
 - a fusible tip disposed at a distal end of each of the delivery tubes that seals the respective delivery tubes, each of the distal ends respectively disposed within each of the appliances, wherein each fusible tip is adapted to release the fire retardant from the container through its respective delivery tube upon melting of that fusible tip when the

temperature within the respective appliance exceeds the melting temperature of that fusible tip; and

a pressure-actuated alarm connected to the container and in fluid communication with the pressurized fire retardant, the alarm adapted to generate an alarm when a pressure in the container drops below a predetermined value as a result of the fire retardant being released from the container into one or more of the appliances.

27. A method of operating a fire extinguisher, comprising:

releasing a pressurized fire retardant into one or more appliances from the fire extinguisher that is normally closed by a fusible closure located in each of the appliances when the fusible closure is exposed to a temperature that exceeds the melting temperature of the closure, causing the fusible closure to be removed by melting; and

activating an alarm of the fire extinguisher in response to a pressure within the fire extinguisher falling below a predetermined value as a result of releasing the fire retardant from the fire extinguisher.

28. A method of operating a fire extinguisher for an appliance, comprising:

releasing a pressurized fire retardant into the appliance from the fire extinguisher that is normally closed by a fusible closure that is located at a location within the appliance when a temperature of the location within the appliance exceeds the melting temperature of the closure, causing the fusible closure to be removed by melting; and

stopping operation of the appliance in response to a pressure within the fire extinguisher falling below a predetermined value as a result of releasing the fire retardant from the fire extinguisher.

29. The method of claim 28, and further comprising activating an alarm of the fire extinguisher in response to the pressure within the fire extinguisher falling below the predetermined value.
30. The method of claim 28, wherein stopping operation of the appliance further comprises using a pressure activated switch of the fire extinguisher that is in fluid communication with the fire retardant and is connected to a power supply circuit of the appliance.